



WORKSHOP MINUTES

**February 11, 2004, 4:00 P.M.
5th Floor Conference Room, City Hall**

Present: Commissioners Brewer, Davidson, Garcia, Gardner, Howe, Huerta, O'Meara, Pearcy and Ward
Alternate Commissioner Corral

Absent: Alternate Commissioner Quinto

Chairman Gardner called the meeting to order at 4:04 p.m.

Public Comment

There were no public comments at this time.

Workshop

Discussion with City Manager George Carvalho and Assistant City Manager Penny Culbreth-Graft regarding the authority of the Commission under the Riverside Municipal Code and how the CPRC can be a better asset to the community.

City Manager George Carvalho said that he supports the Commission and its responsibilities, but that he also understands there are those with philosophical differences regarding the CPRC. He also said he would address specific questions from the commissioners and that their interface is through the Assistant City Manager and CPRC Executive Director.

Assistant City Manager Penny Culbreth-Graft explained her case review process to the commissioners. She said that if she obtains new information during her review, the case will go back to Commission. Ms. Culbreth-Graft also said that the Police Chief told her it would be helpful to know when there are strong dissenting opinions in the Commission regarding findings.

Commissioner Ward asked Ms. Culbreth-Graft in what perspective she thought commissioners should review cases, stating that he thought the Commission should view the cases from the perspective of the citizens. She said that each case can only be reviewed from the perspective each commissioner brings to table. Commissioners Brewer and Huerta voiced disagreement with Commissioner Ward stating that the Commission is a neutral body and should not take sides.

Commissioner Ward also expressed concern over Ms. Culbreth-Graft's response to the Commission's inquiry about releasing its rationale on the Muñoz case. She said that his questions would be good ones for the City Attorney.

Commissioner Garcia asked Ms. Culbreth-Graft how she handles cases where there are two officers and one officer says he doesn't hear or see what the other officer said or did. She said she comes to her own independent conclusion and has the ability to research the case.

Alternate Commissioner Corral asked if all officers have to carry recorders. Chairman Gardner told her that all patrol officers have to carry audio recorders.

There was some discussion about the role and responsibilities of the Executive Director.

Commissioner Davidson said there has been a gray area regarding city hall communication and CPRC findings. He asked if anyone reads the Commission's findings and said he was glad to know that Ms. Culbreth-Graft is so involved. He also asked what Ms. Culbreth-Graft does if she sees enough of an officer or particular situation.

Ms. Culbreth-Graft said that the Executive Director is able to assist her with cases as she doesn't know the emotion or intensity behind a decision. The issues she sees with police officers are issues she sees, in general, with all city employees.

Commissioner Percy asked how Ms. Culbreth-Graft filtered the Commission's memos or letters. She said that she make no changes to any document she receives from the Commission, but that it is passed on to the intended recipient as it is received by her. She said she has never taken anything of the Commission's and changed it. She said it is not part of her job to interpret, filter, or change Commission documents.

Commissioner Percy asked why the CPRC doesn't have legal staff assigned to attend its meetings when other commissions do. Mr. Carvalho referred the question to the City Attorney, Greg Priamos.

Commissioner Percy also expressed concern that the Commission feels muzzled; that the community feels it isn't getting enough information. He asked what kind of information the Commission can present to the community. Ms. Culbreth-Graft referred him to Legal. He expressed concern that the public isn't being served if the Commission can't report what it sees or does.

Public Comment on the Workshop

Ms. Linda Dunn

Ms. Dunn said the workshop is good idea. She commented on the CPRC 2002 Annual Report. She also made suggestions regarding listing the commissioners on the agendas. She made suggestions for giving more information in the annual report regarding outreach and the meetings attended by commissioners. She concluded by saying there is a lot of opportunity for public outreach.

Mary Shelton

Ms. Shelton commented about the on-going issue of RPD Policy and Procedures vs. practice. She said she has heard that officers aren't using their audio recorders.

Nanette Patrini – Riverside Coalition for Public Accountability (RCPA)

Ms. Patrini said her group is very concerned about the continuation of the CPRC. She told the Commission that the RCPA would be holding a public meeting regarding the Commission.

Ray Lewis

Mr. Lewis noted that Riverside is 12th city in California to have citizen oversight. He said he thinks Commission has done very well. He said that people will support the Commission but need help. He said that commissioners will have to talk to councilmembers about its successes. He said the RPOA wants the Commission gone because it has made a difference. He said people will fight to keep Commission.

The Commission adjourned at 5:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


PHOEBE SHERRON
Sr. Office Specialist